

# Loss of Life Is Now Estimated At Thousands

of the fire across Market. At Bush street the big Mills building is the center of business life, and contains the offices of a large number of San Francisco law firms. Further up Market the Flood building is the principal one between the Call building and the city hall, which is at the head of the street. The closing of these buildings for business will do much to paralyze the city. The loss of life, it is thought here, will be greatly lessened on account of the fact that the people were mostly asleep in the residence district, and Salt Lake relatives are not justified in assuming that San Francisco friends were injured or killed because the places of business in which they were located were destroyed. The dispatches so far in no way indicate a general loss of life through the residence section.

## LOCAL TELEGRAPH OFFICES.

The news of the calamity spread with astonishing rapidity around the city and in a short time both the Western Union and the Postal Telegraph local offices were besieged with anxious people begging and crying that they be given preference to wire through to friends and relatives. Manager May of the Western Union estimates that before 11 o'clock fully 2,000 people had entered the office with this demand. At the Postal it was the same story, and the Postal Telegraph company received messages for transmission with the expectancy that every minute the operators in San Francisco would desert their posts as the oncoming fire crept up on them.

## LAST OAKLAND MESSAGE.

The last message to be received from Oakland was delivered by E. R. Pelt, a resident of San Francisco, who is a guest at the Wilson. Shortly after 9 o'clock he received a message from his partner, John Sward, dated from Oakland, which stated: "Conditions so bad can't describe them."

Up to noon Vice President and General Manager W. H. Bancroft of the Western Union, who has been working hard to get into communication with General Manager E. E. Calvin of the Southern Pacific in San Francisco, called to hear from any Southern Pacific officials. The only information obtainable being meager details from Sacramento.

Judging from the number of people who entered the telegraph offices in this city there are hundreds of Salt Laker relatives of residents of this city in and around San Francisco today.

## WALLACE MUCH CONCERNED.

One of the pathetic cases was that of W. R. Wallace, whose wife and two little boys are stopping in a downtown hotel. He was nearly frantic with anxiety and begged to be taken to the city hall to see the scene of the disaster. He filed messages at both offices and made the round of the newspapers in hopes of hearing something definite. The assurance that the Palace hotel, which was the last place where he saw his wife and children, was uninjured failed to bring him comfort. "I can't help looking on the dark side of things," he said, "of course, the Palace is a brick building because the Palace is built of wood and the St. Francis of steel and stone, but the hotel my little ones are in is a brick structure."

## A BRIGHTER VIEW.

Most Allen was more optimistic. After reading a bulletin that had been posted downtown to the effect that Berkeley was totally destroyed, he said: "That's all right. Berkeley is comprised mostly of little frame houses that would take all kinds of an earthquake to shake them down. But he went into the telegraph office and filed a message to his mother, an addition to which Allen has two sisters in Berkeley, one attending the college and the other the high school.

## SALT LAKERS THERE.

Despite assurances, there are plenty of anxious people in Salt Lake today. Among those are a number anxiously awaiting a word from their dear ones. J. J. McClellan heard from her husband yesterday from San Francisco, but as he was going to Los Angeles before returning home, it is possible that he is on his way out at this time and knows nothing about the disaster. E. C. Edson, who rooms at the University club, has a wife and sister in San Francisco. John Edson, a well-known salt lake drug man, C. D. Taylor, of Bradstreet's; Henry Cohn, John E. Dooly, Joseph Cohn and others, all have members of their families in San Francisco.

Among other Salt Laker believed to be in San Francisco are J. William Clawson, Mrs. Mary Clawson, daughter of John Clark, Mrs. Clara Clawson, Mrs. J. J. McClellan and family, Mrs. J. J. McClellan, sister of Mrs. Heber M. Wells; Mrs. Mitchell and Miss Shields, sisters of R. J. Shields; a sister of David Edson, and Sylvester C. Edson, in addition to President Robinson and the "Mormon" Elders laboring in that city.

Another Salt Laker who is very anxious and uncertain by the telegraph is W. C. Shoemaker, traveling freight agent for the Colorado & Southern, who recently sent Mrs. Shoemaker and his boy to San Francisco for a change.

## STILL OTHERS.

Mr. and Mrs. George M. Downey, Mr. George F. Downey, U. S. A., Mrs. Maylan T. Fox, George H. Wetmore, Mr. Harry Hill, George M. Scott, Charles W. Pratt and wife (at the Buckingham), Charles Lawrence, E. W. Wilson, Henry Newell, M. J. Johnson, Will Cunningham, J. J. Daly (probably), Ed Sheets, Hughey (the ball player), John Lovell, George William R. Wallace and two children, Albert McCormick, Will Maas, the parents of Druggist Mathis of this city, the wife and daughter of Enright, the shipman (at St. Nicholas hotel), E. E. Darling, Lorenzo Snow, Jr., Mrs. Florence R. Woodruff (at Oakland), the family of Joe Einspenger (at Berkeley), M. D. Gross of this city and his brother, R. and W. R. Gross, and two sisters, Mrs. W. R. Larzelere and Mrs. O. G. Sage, living in San Francisco.

## THROUGHED TELEGRAPH OFFICES.

These are just a few of the Salt Laker who, through the telegraph offices in the hope of getting messages through or receiving word from the absent ones.

Among the San Francisco people here is E. R. Pelt, who is at the Kenyon, was early striving to get into communication with his partner to find out how his business was really getting on. He is vice president and manager of the Mirmont company, manufacturers of photographic papers, 427-429 Stockton street, San Francisco, and treasurer of the Anglo-California bank. When he was informed that the fire was spreading in the direction of his business, according to the press bulletins received, he turned to his wife and said: "It looks as though we will have to begin all over again, dear." Mrs. Pelt did not seem to be worrying particularly, as she said with a smile: "Well, Frank, we are safe and are lucky to be out of it."

## DAY OF DOOM AND DISASTER.

(Continued from page 1.)

another big fire in that section of the city.

## WHERE FIRE STARTED.

A portion of the Mission several miles from the business section of the city is in flames.

The fire began at Twenty-second street and is rapidly moving eastward.

Should the wind increase it may sweep the entire southern section of the city.

In Oakland five persons were killed by the collapse of the Empire building.

The Gore block, at the junction of Market and Pine streets, is in flames and probably will be a total loss.

## SPREADING OF FLAMES.

A fire which broke out in the Mack wholesale drug company, 13 and 15 Fremont street, threatens to destroy the entire block. On California and Pine streets the fire has reached to Sansome street.

From Pine and Dupont streets the fire has reached to Sansome street.

From Pine and Dupont streets fire can be seen raging in all downtown districts. A brisk westerly wind is coming up and the destruction of the entire business district is threatened.

Several persons are thought to be pinned under the wreckage of the fish market streets between Sacramento and Clay and Commercial streets.

On Fourth and Tehama streets an entire block was caught in the collapse of a building.

The hall of justice is momentarily expected to fall. The city hall is almost in flames. The damage here is estimated at half a million dollars.

## FIRE REACHES MARKET.

The fire has reached Market street near Third and is burning next to the Claus Spreckels building at Third and Market is in flames, and the fire extends along the south side of Market to Fourth.

The following buildings on New Montgomery street, between Market and Mission, have been entirely destroyed.

Telephone company, Rialto building, Mission and Market, the Natoma building on Second and Market, the 12-story Mutual Life building on California street and Sansome has been entirely destroyed.

## APPROACHING BIG HOTEL.

The fire is coming up Market street and is now less than one block from the Postal Telegraph building. The Palace and Grand hotels are in great danger of fire. The Postal Telegraph company and Commercial Cable company will open a temporary office at Oakland as soon as a boat can be procured to carry the operator across the bay. The fire, however, is so fierce between Market street and the ferry, at this time, it is impossible to reach the boat at present.

## MACHINE SHOPS COLLAPSE.

The Santa Fe roundhouse and machine shops at Potrero, Hammond, across the bay, have collapsed.

The earthquake was not seriously felt at other points along the coast so far as can be ascertained.

## AS TO THE DEAD.

At 10:55 a. m. the fire extends from Ferry to Front street on one side and pretty much south of Market on the other, and to about Seventh street, with sporadic fires in the park section and the western division.

There is no way of estimating the number of dead. It may be hundreds, it may be thousands. There is hardly any water and it is impossible to say when the fire will stop. People are fleeing to the water front, where they are taking their lives in their hands, as the building is collapsing and the fire is within half a block. The California Examiner buildings are liable to go at any moment.

## TWENTY-ONE BODIES RECOVERED.

At 9:45 a. m., twenty-one bodies have been taken to the morgue, which cannot accommodate any more.

Mayor Schmidt established headquarters at hall of justice and has appointed a committee of 20 around the city, guarding the banks and other establishments. They have received orders to shoot anyone on sight.

## PALACE HOTEL BURNING.

The Jessie street side of the Palace hotel is burning. The burning district at this hour runs from South street on the west to the water front on the east, south of Market street. North of Market street from Sansome to the city hall, the fire is burning in the direction of the city hall. There is also a block burning on Mission street between Twenty-first and Twenty-second.

## NEWSPAPERS WITHOUT POWER.

The newspapers having had their power cut off, have combined and will issue one paper from the office of the Chronicle, which has its own power.

There was a great rush at the different banks by depositors who wanted to draw out their deposits but the banks decided to keep their doors closed. By order of the chief of police all saloons have been closed. The damage already inflicted is estimated roughly at \$40,000,000.

## WHOLE CITY THREATENED.

The fires are spreading rapidly and unless the wind comes up from the west and blows the flames toward the bay nothing can stop the destruction of the city.

The whole north end of the city is wrecked and the flames are spreading in all directions. In the absence of water, the fire department has resorted to the use of dynamite and buildings are being demolished in the hope of staying the conflagration.

The block bounded by Sansome, California, and Battery streets is practically doomed, the flames sweeping clear across it. Great sheets from Pine street, with no apparatus available for its salvation.

## CALL BUILDING DOOMED.

San Francisco, April 18, 10:15 a. m.—Fire has taken hold of the Call building on Third street side, and flames are now burning fiercely in the interior of the building, but as yet the flames have not spread beyond the fourth floor. The building is also threatened on the Market street side, only one structure separating it from the flames, which are everything on the south side of Market street from Fourth almost to Third.

## MONADNOCK BUILDING FALLS.

The back of the 11-story Monadnock building now nearing completion has fallen out, and the flames threaten to cause great fire loss, the front of the Monadnock was badly cracked by the earthquake.

Although the fire is raging on all sides of the Palace hotel, it has not yet taken fire. The previous report that the Palace hotel had caught fire is incorrect. The flames are rapidly spreading from the Palace company's building, and are within a block of the Associated Press and Western Union buildings. The Postal company is preparing to vacate, and then will shut off all telegraphic communication with the outside world.

This morning's earthquake entire business district, both wholesale and retail, will likely fall a prey to the flames, which are fanned by a stiff breeze.

## A. P. OFFICE WRECKED.

Shock came at 5:15 this morning with frightful results.

New York, April 18.—The Postal Telegraph office at San Francisco was wrecked and communication was lost at 8:50 New York time.

About 9:40 the Postal Telegraph company had communication with its San Francisco office but lost the connection again almost immediately. In the brief period that the wire was working the San Francisco office reported that a number of buildings had collapsed and that the dead and injured were being taken from the ruins as rapidly as possible.

This message came through the principal danger was from the fire, a number of which had started and were making great headway owing to the damage done.

The electric lighting plant of the city has failed and gas mains are disrupted. The damage extends through the entire city.

The Postal building was badly wrecked and the operator's room is out of use.

The Western Union telegraph office at Ferry street is the most seriously damaged.

A telegram from Sacramento to the Western Union telegraph company reports that three miles of railroad sank out of sight as a result of the earthquake between Suisun and Benecia, and all wires were taken with it. At Pleasanton there were several cars burned on the main line, blocking trains. The time of receiving this dispatch the Western Union had been unable to get into communication with San Francisco.

At 10:40 o'clock this morning, the Postal company received the following message:

"At 5:15 this morning a terrific earthquake shock was felt in San Francisco. The damage in the district east of Market street, practically destroying six or eight blocks in the manufacturing and wholesale districts. The banking district was not seriously damaged, although small damage had been done over the whole town. Many persons have been killed and injured and a portion of the town is on fire. The water supply being cut off. At this moment they are dynamiting several of the buildings."

The Associated Press office was also badly damaged.

At 11:05 the Western Union received a report that a serious fire is burning at Berkeley, where the state university is located.

The report came from Pinola, a station 10 miles out of San Francisco, and the nearest point to the latter city, which the company had been able to raise up to the time of this dispatch. Berkeley is between Pinola and San Francisco.

It is also reported that the earthquake shock was severely felt throughout Nevada.

The Postal Telegraph company received information that the greatest damage from the earthquake was done to property in the business district. Druma, Davis, Front, Battery, Sansome, Montgomery, Kearney, Spear, Main, Real and Fremont.

The Western Union has received a report from Sacramento that the Southern Pacific railroad will attempt to get a train into San Francisco, starting from Sacramento and taking a short cut through the Vallejo, which is on the Bay of San Pablo. From that place the passengers will be taken by boat to San Francisco. This course was made necessary by the sinking of a three-mile section of railroad track between Suisun and Benecia, which are on the direct line between Sacramento and San Francisco. The road crosses some lowland at the point where its tracks are reported sunk in the very precarious condition. Both he and his wife were injured.

At 11 o'clock, San Francisco time, the employees of the Postal Telegraph checked the flames. The residence section of the city, while badly shaken, reports no loss of life or serious damage.

## BUSINESS NOTES.

Today's local bank clearings amounted to \$1,154,401.45 as against \$704,292.89 for the same day last year.

The second quarterly dividend of 1 per cent on the independent Telephone Co.'s stockholders was mailed yesterday.

## CONFUSION EVERYWHERE.

The Call and Examiner Newspaper Blocks Were Both Badly Damaged.

San Francisco, April 18, 8 a. m.—In the confusion which reigns everywhere here it is almost impossible to learn details of the catastrophe. In general it may be said that the business district between Market and Howard streets, from the bay as far west as the city hall, has been badly wrecked. The hotels near Third and Market streets were badly shaken up but there seems to have been no loss of life. The Call and Examiner buildings, as well as the Western Union building, have been badly wrecked. The large apartment stores in this neighborhood were also ruined by the earthquake occurred at an hour when they were empty and no loss of life is reported. Further east on Market, toward the ferry clips, is a section occupied by cheap lodging houses and hotels, and here the loss of life is reported to be very great, though the extent of it could not be ascertained in this hour.

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## PARADOXICAL GREAT MORGUE.

Three Hundred Dead Bodies Have Been Collected in Single Building.

RELIEF FROM LOS ANGELES.

Special Train Bearing Supreme Court Judges and Newspaper Correspondents to Leave at Once.

Los Angeles, April 18.—Information from San Francisco is that Mechanic's pavilion is being used as a morgue. Three hundred dead bodies are reported already gathered at that place. The wind is blowing a gale, and the flames are said to be making headway.

The shock of the earthquake was felt as far south as Santa Barbara. The fact that Oakland and San Jose and other bay cities have not been able to communicate with Los Angeles would indicate that they, too, have suffered from the shock.

A special train carrying the supreme court, now in session at Los Angeles, will leave here in a few hours. The train will also take newspaper correspondents and probably may offer assistance if it is needed. Gen. Funston, commander of the Presidio, has turned out the entire force of soldiers at that point, and established martial law in San Francisco. The city has closed every saloon in the city.

There is a jam of panic-stricken people at the ferry, seeking to cross the bay to Oakland. Fires are raging everywhere, and the firemen are using dynamite. The Palace and Grand hotels have been destroyed.

Mayor Schmitz has sent to Oakland for more dynamite.

Fires are reported at Oakland, Alameda and Berkeley.

The Call and Rialto buildings are ablaze. The lofty Call building is swaying and expected to topple over.

The Southern Pacific building next door to the Postal Telegraph is a fire.

## POSTAL IN RUINS.

The Postal building is almost an entire wreck, but communication is maintained with Los Angeles on a single wire.

The Sunset Telephone building on Bush street and the W. U. at Pine and Montgomery streets, are entirely wrecked.

Up to 11 o'clock about 400 dead had been brought to Mechanic's pavilion, and others were coming in all the time. The soldiers are maintaining order as far as possible, but the population has no thought of anything but escape from the city. Shocks continue at intervals. At 9:20 and 10 o'clock there were heavy shocks that did further damage and brought increased panic. The Nevada bank block, and the W. U. at Pine and Montgomery are utterly demolished. A lodginghouse at Second and Stevenson buried many victims, six having been taken out. It is said buildings were destroyed at San Francisco about 100 miles south of San Francisco.

Nothing has been heard from San Jose and other cities south of San Francisco, the coast.

When the first shock occurred at 5:15 a. m., most of the population were in bed and many lodgingshouses collapsed, with every occupant killed or injured.

First came a slight shock followed almost immediately by a second and then the great shock that sent buildings flying in all directions. People who were in bed were thrown out of bed and many were killed or injured. The streets were filled with people and the shocks sent them into unreasoning panic. Fire lighted up the sky in every direction in the breaking down. In the business district devastation met the eye on every hand. It is reported that two ships at anchor in the bay were sunk.

The area bounded by Washington, Mission and Second streets, extending to the bay front, is devastated. This represents the heart of the business district.

## TROOPS ORDERED OUT.

Steps Being Taken for the Relief of Sufferers as Far as Possible.

Gen. Funston called all the available troops for service if necessary in the emergency.

The board of supervisors will meet immediately to take necessary measures for relief and protection of the sufferers by disaster. Chief of the fire department, Mr. Sullivan, is in a very precarious condition. Both he and his wife were injured.

At 11 o'clock, San Francisco time, the employees of the Postal Telegraph checked the flames. The residence section of the city, while badly shaken, reports no loss of life or serious damage.

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